Freedom's Cottage,
Roxbury, Oct. 11, 1834.

5-9

My dear and indefatigable Coadjutor:

This, I trust, will be put into your hands by one whose name and fame, and talents and services, have long since thundered across the Atlantic, and caused our hearts to beat high with joyful expectation at his coming — who has been triumphantly borne upon the shoulders of patriotic ardor and christian philanthropy from one end of the British kingdom to the other — whose appeals in behalf of 800,000 slaves in the British Colonies have rung from side to side, and electrified millions who were slumbering in the lap of moral death — and who has come hither to make one of a despised and persecuted band, who are chiefly known and estimated as firebrands, fanatics, and madmen! Need I write his name? Already you have given George Thompson the right hand of fellowship; for I am sure that he has not waited until you shall have read this letter, without making himself known.

Last week, a very interesting Convention was held in Groton, at which Prof. Wright, Mr. May, Mr. Thompson, myself, &c. were present. Since my return, I have been quite unwell, having had an attack of the cholic and dysentery, which has weakened me very much. Although appointed a delegate to the Augusta Convention, it will not be practicable for me to attend. I regret this the more, inasmuch as it would be exceedingly gratifying to me to introduce Mr. Thompson

to the Convention, with all the gratitude and admiration I feel in view of his eminent merits. Be the pleasing task yours. If practicable, get a resolution passed in favor of his mission, and commending him to private hospitality and public attention. And one word as to hospitality. I hope that wherever he travels, he will in no case be necessitated to "put up" at taverns and hotels, as in such houses he will always be a signal mark for the shafts of opposition and insult, and as the least our abolition brethren can do is to give him a cordial reception at their own homes. Besides, as he has not come among us to receive one farthing of our money, we ought to make the burden as light for him and our English brethren as possible. These hints are wholly spontaneous on my part, neither known to, nor in any manner suggested by Mr. T.

I anticipate a brave, dextrous, and full discussion at the Convention. It is evidently the wish of the colonization scribes and pharisees, — taking the Christian Mirror for an index, — to consider themselves, by a little jesuitical twisting, as included in the call of the meeting, and to outvote, if possible, the abolitionists, and make the whole affair an abortion. They neither mean to go ahead, nor to come up to your

mark; and they dare not remain a long distance behind. Some of them are evidently under strong conviction, but pride and unbelief (the sinner's last refuge) prevent them from throwing down the weapons of their rebellion. As far as strict obedience to God and equal justice to man will permit, be placable and conciliatory — but do not give up one jot or tittle of ~~principles~~ principle, nor keep anything back, merely for the sake of conciliation. You will doubtless have much sophistry and chicanery to contend with — but I fear not the issue in the hands of such men as Thompson, Pomroy, Tessenden, Shepard, and yourself. Let Thompson have a full swing, especially at the cavillers and intermeddlers, if there be any. He always does well when he has opposition — violent opposition. I pity the man who has him as an antagonist. Again I say, let him have a full swing.

The genuine and uncompromising character of the Convention would be indisputably settled, if you can get the Declaration of the National Convention read and adopted. Try it — it is a good touchstone — any standard that is lower will be good for nothing.

~~Have~~ Have something said, resolved, and done, respecting slavery in the District of Columbia. A petition should be agreed upon, and circulated throughout the State, immediately.

By all means, let the State Society be made auxiliary to the National. It is avowedly the intention of the enemy to "divide and conquer" — but let us remember that "united we stand," and that in union only, is there strength. Let whatever is done, be well done.

How bitter and malignant are the feelings of my enemies toward me! But I trust I can say, in all sincerity and truth, "The Lord is my portion for ever." The editor of the Mirror is growing "exceedingly mad" against me, and seems determined to make me infamous. I cannot help smiling, and feeling very complacent, when such an opponent upbraids me with retarding the progress of the abolition cause!! It is not for me to say how much I have accomplished, but I remember that four or five years ago, there were scarcely as many individuals in the nation who were ready to endorse my principles,

Wm. L. Garrison
Roxbury Oct 11.
1834

Rev. Amos A. Phelps,
Portland, Me.

Solicitor of George Thompson, Esq.

and now there are thousands — perhaps tens of thousands. Wonderful, indeed, is the change. Greater success it would be dangerous even for an angel to obtain, lest it might "exalt him above measure." O, may I ever be as humble as God is glorious, and ascribe to him all the praise. Let this be my epitaph — He never sought panegyric, nor feared obloquy.

I shall probably send a letter to you by mail at Augusta, to be read at the Convention.

The God of Israel strengthen and bless you, my brother.

Yours, affectionately, Wm. Lloyd Garrison.

Rev. A. A. Phelps.